

Amendments to the claims

1. (Previously amended) The method of issuing and managing investment instruments which comprises, in combination, the steps of:

establishing an investment fund,

creating a security which represents a claim against and is secured by said investment fund, said security entitling its holder to receive, at one or more future maturity dates specified by said security at the time said security is created, either a lump sum payment amount or, at the option of said holder, to receive a sequence of annuity payments, the amount and payment date of each of said annuity payments being specified by said security at the time said security is created,

transferring said security to a purchaser in exchange for a purchase price amount,

depositing at least a substantial portion of said purchase price amount into said fund,

investing the assets of said fund so that the net asset value of said fund at said maturity date should be adequate to pay to the holder of said instrument at said maturity date either said lump sum payment amount or an amount adequate to purchase said annuity, and

on or after said maturity date, transferring either said lump sum payment amount or said annuity payments to said holder as elected by said holder.

2. (Previously amended) A method for producing and distributing investment securities comprising, in combination, the steps of:

creating a security which comprises a contract in which contains a promise by the issuer of the said security made at the time said security is first issued to pay to the holder of the security a predetermined guaranteed lump sum cash payment at a predetermined future maturity date or to pay, in the alternative and at the option of the holder, a sequence of predetermined annuity payments at defined times on or after said future maturity date, and

issuing said security to a holder in advance of said maturity date in return for a purchase price payment.

3. (Currently amended) The method of issuing and managing investment instruments which comprises, in combination, the steps of:

establishing an investment fund or general account,

creating a written instrument which represents a number of units or shares owned by the holder of said instrument, each of said units or shares constituting a claim against or being secured by said investment fund or general account, said instrument entitling its holder to receive, at a future maturity date specified by said ~~security instrument~~ instrument at the time said ~~security instrument~~ instrument is created, either a lump sum payment amount or, in the alternative and at the option of said holder, to future income consisting of a single monetary unit of specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals specified by said ~~security instrument~~ instrument at the time said ~~security instrument~~ instrument is created,

transferring the rights conferred by said written instrument to a holder in exchange for a purchase price amount, and

on or about said maturity date, transferring to said holder either said lump sum payment amount or the right to receive said future income as elected by said holder.

4. (Currently amended) The method of issuing and managing investment instruments as set forth in claim 3 further comprising the ~~step~~ steps, performed during an accumulation period after said step of transferring and before said future maturity date, of publishing, reporting or otherwise revealing both the amount of said future income and the stated current monetary value of said units or shares expressed in said specified currency, and conveying to said holder on request additional units or shares constituting a claim against or being secured by said investment fund or general account in exchange a monetary payment equal to said stated current monetary value of said additional units or shares.

5. (Previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing investment instruments or contracts as set forth in claim 4 wherein said instrument further entitles its holder to redeem upon request made during said accumulation period some or all of said units or shares for said stated current monetary value

6. (Previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing investment instruments or contracts as set forth in claim 3 wherein said single monetary unit of a specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals is a specified integral number of dollars payable monthly, quarterly or annually for each of said units or shares.

7. (Previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing investment instruments or contracts as set forth in claim 3 wherein said single monetary unit of specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals is one dollar per month for each of said units or shares.

8. (Previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing investment instruments or contracts as set forth in claim 5 wherein said single monetary unit of a specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals is a specified integral number of dollars payable monthly, quarterly or annually for each of said units or shares.

9. (Previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing investment instruments or contracts as set forth in claim 5 wherein said single monetary unit of specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals is one dollar per month for each of said units or shares.

10. (Previously amended) A method for issuing and redeeming an investment instrument that entitles its current holder at a maturity date specified in said instrument as first issued to receive a specified minimum annuity income after said maturity date, said method comprising, in combination, the steps of:

issuing said instrument denominated as a number of units or shares each of which as issued entitles said current holder of said instrument to receive a specified monetary unit of a specified currency payable at periodic calendar intervals after said maturity date, and

paying to said current holder of said instrument at said maturity date a minimum lump sum cash payment specified by said instrument as issued or,

in the alternative and at the option the said current holder, transferring to said current holder at said maturity date an annuity which entitles said holder to receive for each of said units or shares at least said specified monetary unit of said specified currency payable at said periodic calendar intervals as specified in said instrument as issued.

11. (Previously submitted) A method for issuing and redeeming an investment instrument as set forth in claim 10 wherein said specified monetary unit in a specified currency payable at said periodic calendar intervals is one dollar per month for each of said units or shares.

12. (Currently amended) The method of issuing and redeeming an investment instrument as set forth in claim 10 wherein said instrument further entitles its holder to redeem upon request made prior to said maturity date some or all of said units or shares for a stated current monetary value per unit or share periodically published, reported or revealed by the issuer of said instrument, and wherein said units or shares are issued to said current holder in exchange for a purchase price payment equal to said stated current monetary value at the time said units or shares are issued.

13. (Currently amended) The method of issuing and redeeming an investment instrument as set forth in claim 11 wherein said instrument further entitles its holder to redeem upon request

made prior to said maturity date some or all of said units or shares for a stated current monetary value per unit or share periodically published, reported or revealed by the issuer of said instrument, and wherein said units or shares are issued to said current holder in exchange for a purchase price payment equal to said stated current monetary value at the time said units or shares are issued.

14. (inadvertently skipped claim number – no claim 14 was ever submitted)

15. (Currently amended) The method of issuing and managing an investment instrument denominated as a number of units or shares each of which as first issued entitles a holder to receive a specified monetary unit of a specified currency at periodic calendar intervals specified in said instrument as issued, said method comprising the steps of:

issuing said investment instrument to a holder in exchange for an initial investment,

after issuing said investment instrument, periodically publishing, reporting or otherwise revealing to the current holder of said investment instrument the stated current monetary value of said units or shares,

on or about at a future maturity date specified in said instrument as issued, paying a lump sum monetary payment to the current holder of said investment instrument at said maturity date which will provide a ~~guaranteeable~~ guaranteeable minimum rate of return on said initial investment during the accumulation period preceding said maturity date as specified in said instrument as issued, and

at the option of said holder exercised on or about said maturity date, converting all or part of said investment instrument or said lump sum monetary payment into the right to receive a guaranteeable annuity income consisting of at least said specified monetary unit of said specified currency for each of said units or shares payable at each of said periodic calendar intervals.

16. (Previously amended) The method of issuing and managing an investment instrument as set forth in claim 15 further comprising the ~~step~~ steps of redeeming said investment instrument at the request of the current holder of said investment instrument during said accumulation period by purchasing from said holder all or part of said units or shares prior to said maturity date for an amount substantially equal to said stated current monetary value of

said units or shares, and issuing additional equivalent units or shares to said holder in exchange for an additional purchase price payment equal to said stated current monetary value of said additional units or shares.

17. (Previously amended) The method of issuing and managing investment an instrument as set forth in claim 15 wherein said single monetary unit of a specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals is a specified integral number of dollars payable monthly, quarterly or annually for each of said units or shares.

18. (Previously amended) The method of issuing and managing an instruments as set forth in claim 15 wherein said single monetary unit of specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals is one dollar per month for each of said units or shares.

19. (Currently amended) The method of issuing and managing an investment product that allows its holder to own a liquid investment asset and to know with reasonable certainty both the asset's minimum value at a future maturity date specified by said investment product as first issued and to know the minimum annuity income that the asset can provide after said maturity date as specified in said instrument as first issued, said method including the steps of:

denominating said product as a number of units or shares each of which provide a minimum annuity income that said holder will have the right to receive each month after said maturity date, said minimum annuity income being expressed in said instrument as first issued as a single monetary unit of a specified currency,

periodically publishing, reporting or otherwise revealing to said holder the stated current monetary value of said units or shares,

transferring said number of units or shares to said holder in exchange for a purchase price payment equal to said stated monetary value of said units or shares at the time said units or shares are transferred,

upon demand made by said holder made prior to said maturity date, exchanging all or part of said units or shares for a redemption value substantially equal to said stated current monetary value at the time of said demand,

paying to said holder at said maturity date at least a minimum guaranteeable lump sum payment amount specified in said instrument as first issued, and

converting, upon demand by said holder on or about said maturity date, all or part of said specified lump sum payment amount into an annuity which entitles the holder to receive said minimum annuity income for each of said units or shares.

20. (Previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing an investment product as set forth in claim 19 wherein annuity provides said annuity income during the life said holder or the lives of said holder and a survivor, said product further specifies adjustments to the amount to be paid monthly based on the age of the holder or the age of the holder's survivor at the time all or part of said specified lump sum payment is converted to said annuity.

21. (Previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing and investment product as set forth in claim 19 wherein said single monetary unit of a specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals is a specified integral number of dollars payable monthly, quarterly or annually for each of said units or shares.

22. (Previously submitted) The method of issuing and managing an investment product as set forth in claim 21 wherein said single monetary unit of specified currency payable for each of said units or shares at periodic calendar intervals is one dollar per month for each of said units or shares.